

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device (1) comprising:
a main body (2) and a plurality of bristles (3) carried by
said main body,
said tooth-cleaning device comprising engaging means (4, 7)
adapted to be engaged by the human tongue and allowing said
tooth-cleaning device to be displaced within the mouth by
means of the tongue;
with said main body being adapted to receive a dispersible
substance which is naturally dispersed during use; and
~~said tooth-cleaning device being characterized in that:~~
said main body is impregnated with said dispersible
substance.
2. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in
claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said dispersible
substance is selected ~~between~~ from a group consisting of a
flavoring substance, a toothpaste, or a therapeutical
substance.
3. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one~~
~~of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said

engaging means comprise a receiving portion (4, 7) adapted to receive at least a portion of the tongue, allowing said tooth-cleaning device to be displaced within the mouth by means of the tongue.

4. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~claim~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said receiving portion comprises a receiving aperture (4) adapted to receive at least the end portion of the tongue, allowing the tooth-cleaning device to be displaced within the mouth by means of the tongue.
5. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body is a hollow body comprising an inner cavity (7) defining said receiving portion, with said inner cavity communicating with the exterior through said receiving aperture
6. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said hollow body has an approximately hollow cylindrical shape, defining an approximately cylindrical receiving portion.

7. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has an approximately hollow thimble shape defining a tapered receiving portion.
8. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has an approximately spherical hollow shape defining an approximately spherical receiving portion.
9. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body defines a trough hole (4) corresponding to said receiving aperture.
10. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has an approximately ring or doughnut shape.

11. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has an approximately square shape.
12. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has an approximately polygonal shape with a predefined number of sides.
13. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 9 to 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has a cross sectional shape approximately circular.
14. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has an approximately square cross sectional shape.
15. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims 9 to~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

said main body has an approximately polygonal cross sectional shape with a predefined number of sides.

16. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 9 to 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body comprises a cylindrical surface (5) facing said through hole.
17. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body has a cross-sectional contour defined by a linear portion and a curved portion joined to said linear portion.
18. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device (1) as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body (2) is deformable so that it can be shaped so as to form engaging means (4, 7) adapted to be engaged by the human tongue and allowing said tooth-cleaning device to be displaced within the mouth by means of the tongue.
19. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body can

be deformed so as to define a receiving portion (4, 7) adapted to receive at least a portion of the tongue, allowing said tooth-cleaning device to be displaced within the mouth by means of the tongue.

20. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body can be deformed so as to define a receiving portion comprising a receiving aperture (4) adapted to receive at least the end portion of the tongue, allowing the tooth-cleaning device to be displaced within the mouth by means of the tongue.
21. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body comprises a flat strip adapted to be deformed so as to define said receiving portion.
22. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flat strip can be deformed into a body of an approximately cylindrical shape, defining an approximately cylindrical receiving portion.

23. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flat strip can be deformed into a body of an approximately thimble shape defining a taper receiving portion.
24. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flat strip can be deformed into a body of an approximately spherical shape defining an approximately spherical receiving portion.
25. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body comprises an elongated body of an approximately barrel-like shape, adapted to be deformed so as to define a through hole (4).
26. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated body can be deformed into an approximately ring-shaped or doughnut-shaped body.

27. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated body can be deformed into an approximately square-shaped body.
28. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 25, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated body can be deformed into an approximately polygonal shaped body with a predefined number of sides.
29. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 25 ~~[[28]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated body has a cross-sectional shape approximately circular.
30. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims 25-28~~ claim 27, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated body has an approximately square cross-sectional shape.
31. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims 25-~~ claim 28, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said

elongated body has an approximately polygonal like cross-sectional shape with a predefined number of sides.

32. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 25 ~~[[-28]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated body comprises a flat surface (5).
33. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 32, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongated body has a cross-sectional contour defined by a linear portion and a curved portion (5') joined to said linear portion.
34. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[-33]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body comprises a contact area adapted to be contacted by the tongue, with said bristles being provided outside said contact area.
35. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[-34]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body is formed by a resilient material and a string or cord is provided to be hand-held by the user, thus

preventing accidental ingestion of the tooth-cleaning device. [[.]]

36. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 35, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said resilient material is selected ~~between~~ from a group consisting of gum, silicon, or resin.
37. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 36~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said body is inert, non-toxic and impervious to saliva.
38. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 37~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body comprises adhesion improving means (8) adapted to improve the adhesion Of the tongue to the main body.
39. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in claim 38, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said adhesion improving means comprise resilient protrusions extending from said main body.

40. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 39, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said bristles comprise bristles of at least two different lengths.
41. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 to 40, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said bristles comprise bristle tufts.
42. (Currently Amended) A tooth-cleaning device as claimed in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[-41]]~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said main body (2) and said bristles are at least partially embedded in a sweet or a drop (9) of a dispersible substance adapted to be dispersed by the human saliva.